

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PM'S VE-DAY SPEECH

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 080052Z MAY 75; (B) LISBON 2593

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES DELIVERED BRIEF VE-DAY SPEECH WARNING THAT REACTIONARY FORCES ARE STILL AROUND, THAT WORKERS MUST NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE DIVIDED, AND THAT PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION WILL NOT SURVIVE IF ECONOMY GOES UNDER. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF VE-DAY TOOK FORM OF HIGH LEVEL GOP AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE AT MAY 8 LISBON COMMEMORATION CEREMONY SPONSORED BY PORTUGUESE COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION. GUEST AND DIGNITARY LIST LAY HEAVY EMPHASIS ON REPRESENTATION BY CONTEMPORARY "ANTI-FASCIST" FIGHTERS WITH SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREFRONT.

2. CONVOCATION'S PRINCIPAL SPEAKER, PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES, DELIVERED UNUSUALLY BRIEF ADDRESS AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. ALTHOUGH FASCISM IN PORTUGAL HAS BEEN DEFEATED, CAPITALIST FORCES HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT GIVE UP ATTEMPTS TO STAGE COMEBACK; THE PEOPLE MUST BE ALERT TO NEW PERILS.
- B. THE PEOPLE'S WILL MUST COINCIDE WITH ITS INTERESTS, OTHERWISE IT RISKS OBJECTIVELY (IF UNCONSCIOUSLY) BECOMING COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY.
- C. PORTUGUESE PEOPLE MUST DISTINGUISH ITS TWO OPTIONS: REVOLUTION OR REACTION.
- D. NO MATTER HOW PURE A REVOLUTION'S THEORETICAL LINE MAY BE, IT CANNOT SURVIVE COMPLETE ECONOMIC DETERIORATION; THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY, CANNOT STAND MORE SHOCKS.
- E. NO SOCIALIST PATH CAN BE BASED ON IMMEDIATE WAGE BENEFITS, AND NO REVOLUTIONARY AND AWARE PEOPLE CAN CENTER ITS STRUGGLE ON DEMANDS FOR SUCH BENEFITS; PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION HAS PREEMINENT NEED TO CONSTRUCT SOLID PRODUCTIVE APPARATUS.

2. COMMENT: THE TYPICAL GONCALVES SPEECH IS LONG, EMOTIONAL, RAMBLING, LIKELY TO GO OFF ON TANGENTS. INSTEAD PM DELIVERED BRIEF TALK GETTING ACROSS MESSAGE THAT ECONOMY IS IN TROUBLE, THAT UNREALISTIC WAGE DEMANDS DO NOT HELP, AND THAT LURKING AROUND THE CORNER AND READY TO BENEFIT FROM MIS-TAKES ARE WORKERS' TRUE ENEMIES, THE DETHRONED CAPITALISTS. PM DID NOT DRAG OUT DEAD CAT OF INTERNATIONAL MONOPOLY INTERESTS, NOR REFER TO UNITED STATES, NEITHER DID HE SPEAK OF FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY OF SOVIET AND OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" PEOPLES FOR PORTUGUESE. HIS IMPLICIT ATTACK ON THE VALIDITY OF THE ELECTIONS (PARA 2B) WAS PROBABLY TOO SUBTLE FOR THE MAN IN THE STREET TO CATCH.

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